

February 12, 2003

Honorable Michael Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20544

RE: CC Docket No. 01-338, Review of the Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers

Chairman Powell:

The El Centro Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau, representing over 800 businesses in El Centro and Imperial Valley, encourage the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to dismantle the facilities unbundling rules. The results of the rules have had a devastating effect on the telecommunications industry and the high-tech manufacturing sector.

Instead, the FCC should create a national framework that would provide incentives to the telecom industry when investments are made to facilities. This would create a healthy and sustainable competitive environment.

We discourage the FCC to make any attempt to extend unbundling requirements to broadband facilities. Freeing broadband investment from costly unbundling requirements will act as an incentive and encourage investment in new technologies nationwide. A recent study released by the Progress and Freedom Foundation found that eliminating the unbundling regime would result in the creation of over 1 million new jobs!

We need jobs, not additional regulations, so we encourage the FCC to dismantle and not expand the facilities unbundling rules.

Sincerely,

Richard Acosta

Richard Acosta
President